4 April 2006
Tuesday

DEVOTION

The season of Lent is one of rededicating your life to God, giving up sin, and of sacrifice. Being soldiers, sacrifice is a common occurrence for us, especially when it comes to field time and deployments away from our families. Sometimes, those deployments can be a time of reflection, to see and realize what things in our lives are truly important, and what we can discard.

In Mark, the Lord tells us again and again to discard that which causes us to sin, for it is better to be without that, than to burn in hell. It is better to enter Heaven without a hand, or an eye, or a foot, than to go to hell with both.

What He is trying to say is that no matter what we have in us, or about us, that causes us to sin, it is not worth being barred from Heaven on its behalf. He demands that we live sinless lives, and that we confess our sins to him so we may be purified by his love.

What sins are there in our lives? These may be in our thoughts, attitudes, words or in our deeds. Everything counts, everything affects us in some way in the end, no matter how small or great it is in the beginning. Sin is sin, no matter what shape or form it takes…God does not distinguish, there are no shades of grey, no "ifs, ands, or buts" about sin, merely black and white.

Of course, giving up sin is a hard thing for us to do, because some of it is so ingrained in our lives, we don't always realize its even there, or recognize it for what it really is… Depending on the sin, it may be a great sacrifice for us to endure, but the rewards in heaven far outweigh the pain and suffering we'll endure by not giving it up.

No matter what, though, God is there protecting and loving us, watching and waiting for us to give up our sins, so that he can embrace us, and bring us in through the gates of Heaven.

Eternal life with our Lord in heaven…Now, why would we NOT want to give up the sins in our lives.

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